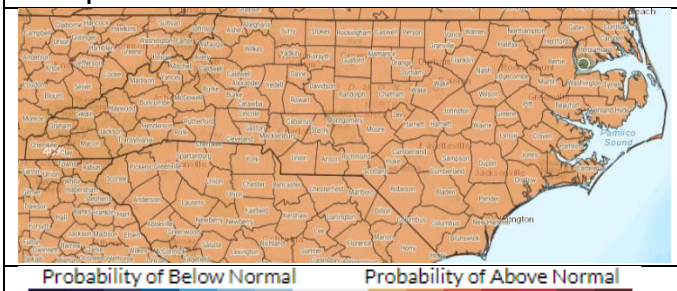
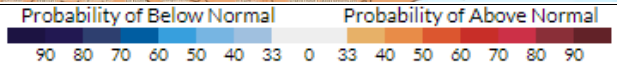
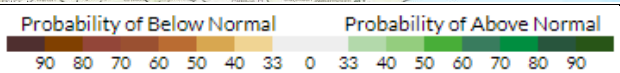
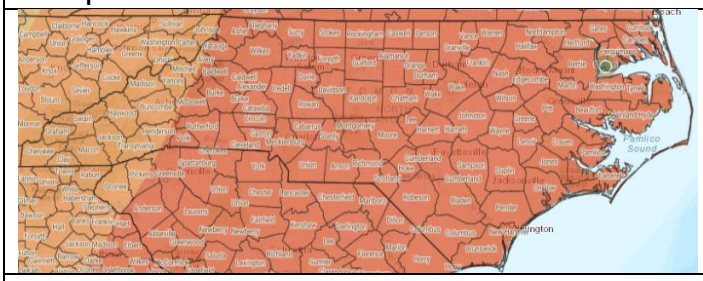
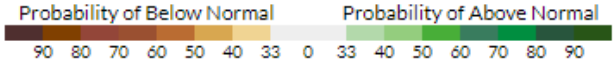
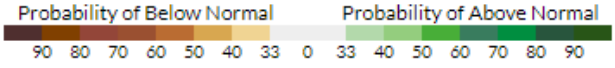
SUMMER SEASONAL FIRE DANGER OUTLOOK

JUNE (Outlook as of May 31st)

Temperature	Precipitation
	
	

Temperatures look to be above normal for the entire state. These probabilities are for average temperature, not daily maximum. Precipitation is expected to be normal, except below normal north and east of a line from approximately Reidsville to Lillington to Burgaw.

June-August (Outlook as of May 21st)

Temperature	Precipitation
	
	

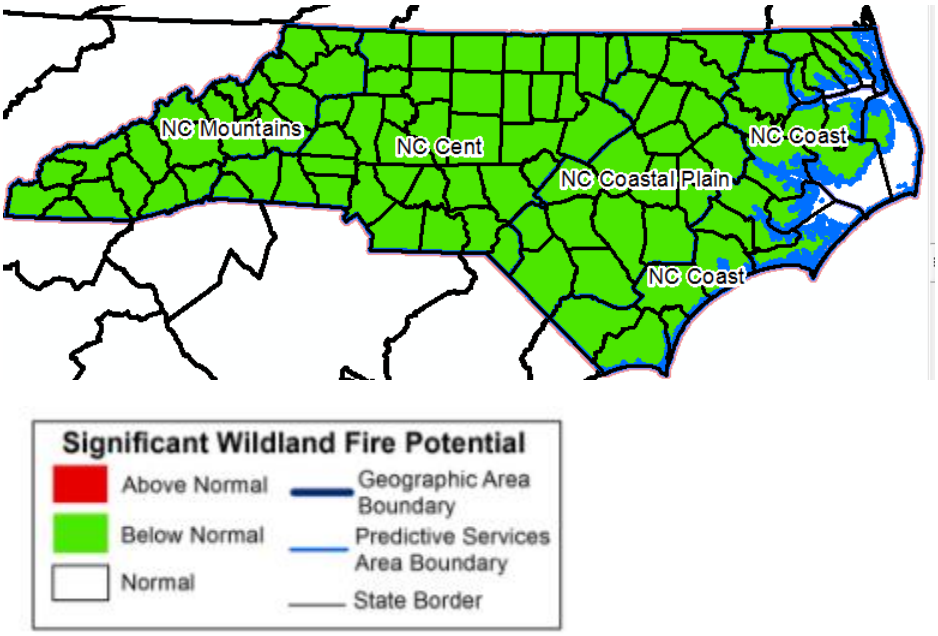
The June-August time period paints a slightly different picture. Temperatures are predicted to still be above normal, with an even better chance above normal east of a line from approximately Spruce Pine to Black Mountain to Flat Rock. A 40-50% chance of above normal precipitation is anticipated for the entire state. ENSO neutral conditions make it difficult to predict long term trends.

CURRENT DROUGHT SITUATION

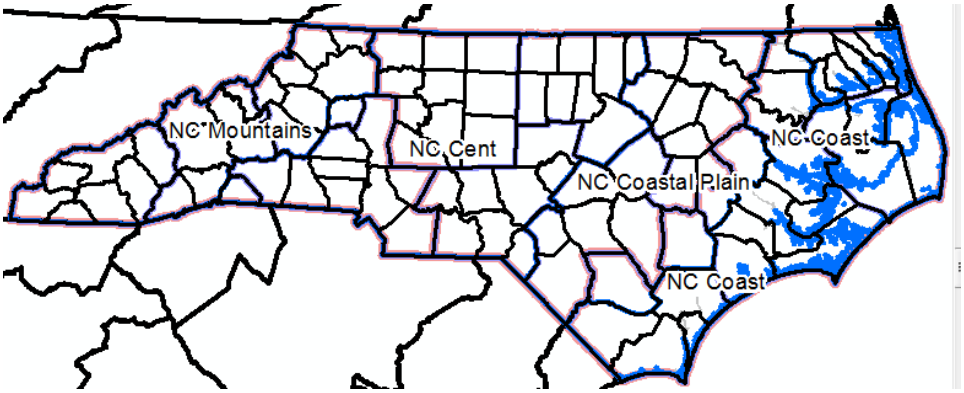
There are NO drought or abnormally dry conditions in the state. No drought conditions are expected to develop in NC during the summer.

SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL FOR NC

June and July

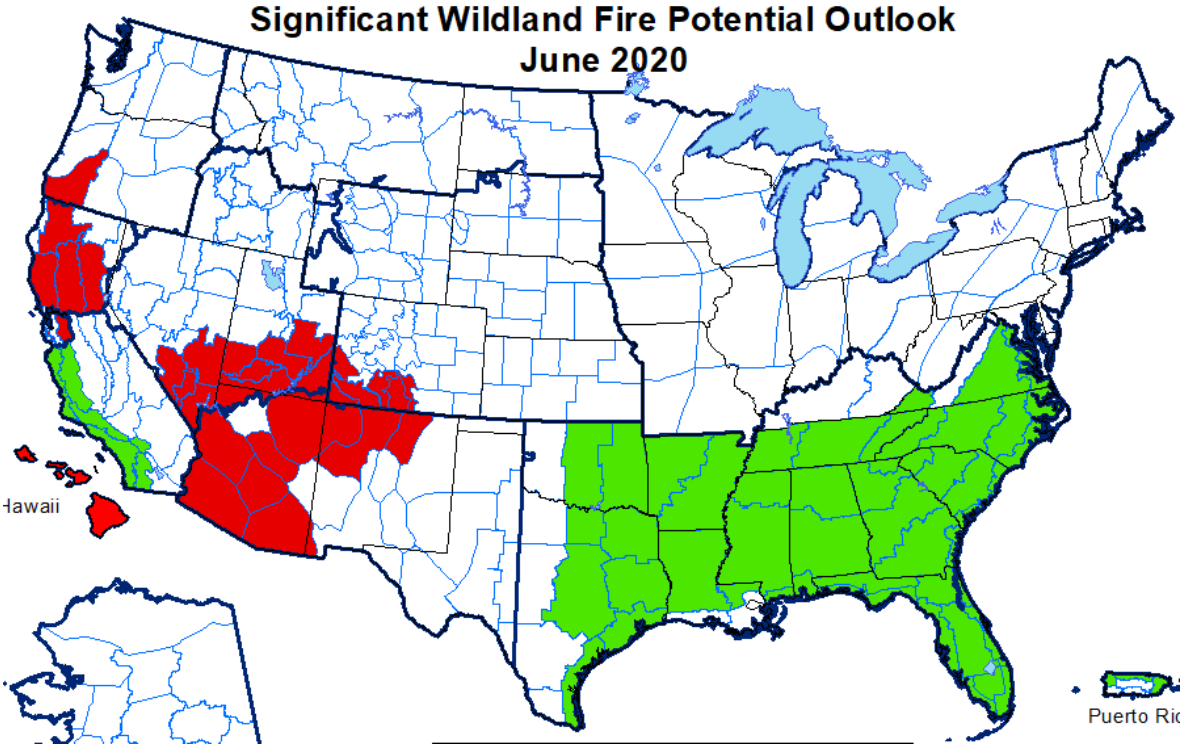


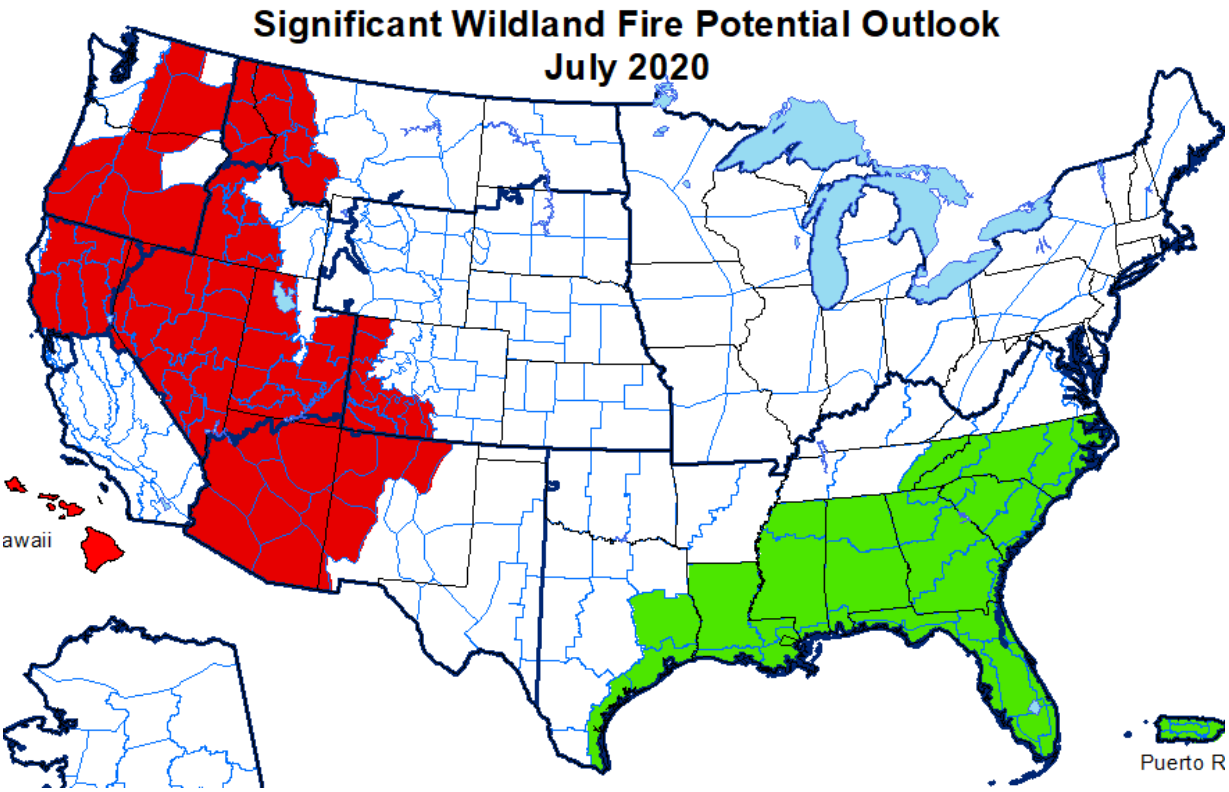
August

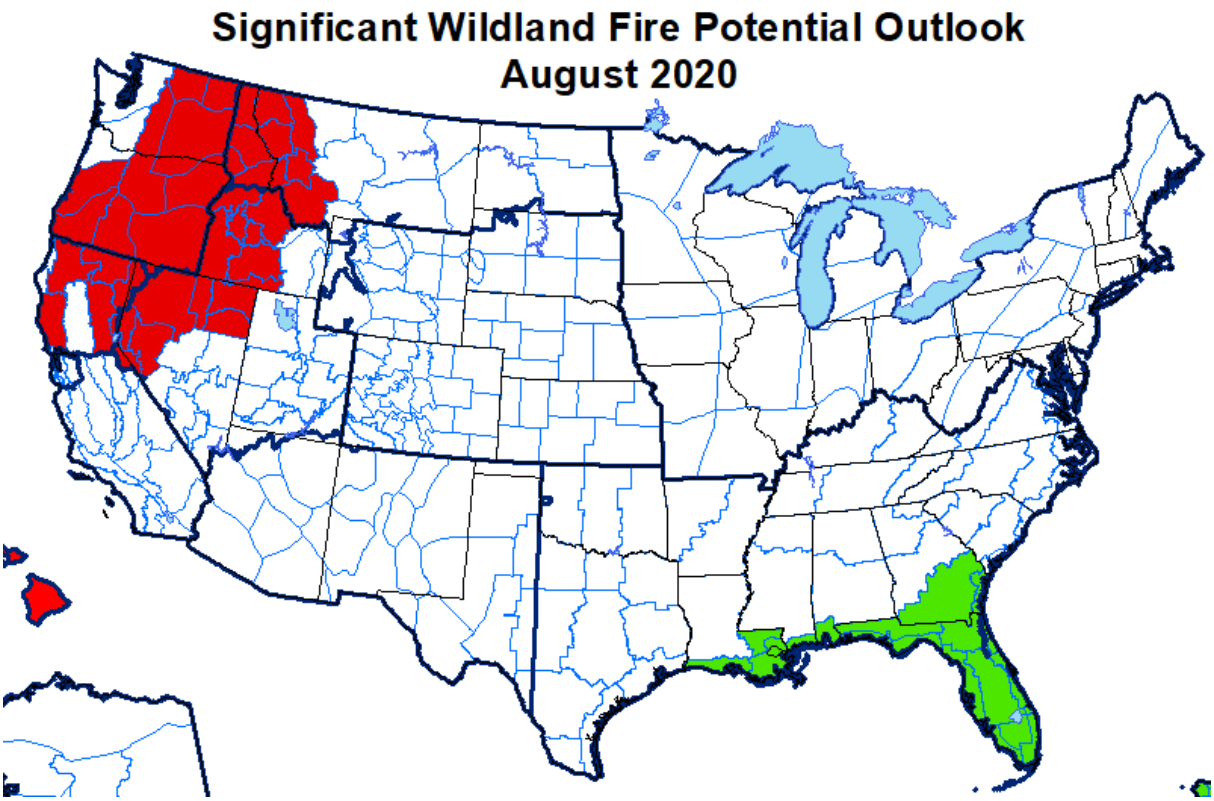


Predictions are for below normal for June and July and normal for August. As always, this is a general outlook for significant fire potential. There may be times of dry conditions that could lead to increased fire occurrence. As with weather, confidence in long term significant fire occurrence predictions during ENSO neutral conditions is reduced.

SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL FOR THE REST OF THE COUNTRY



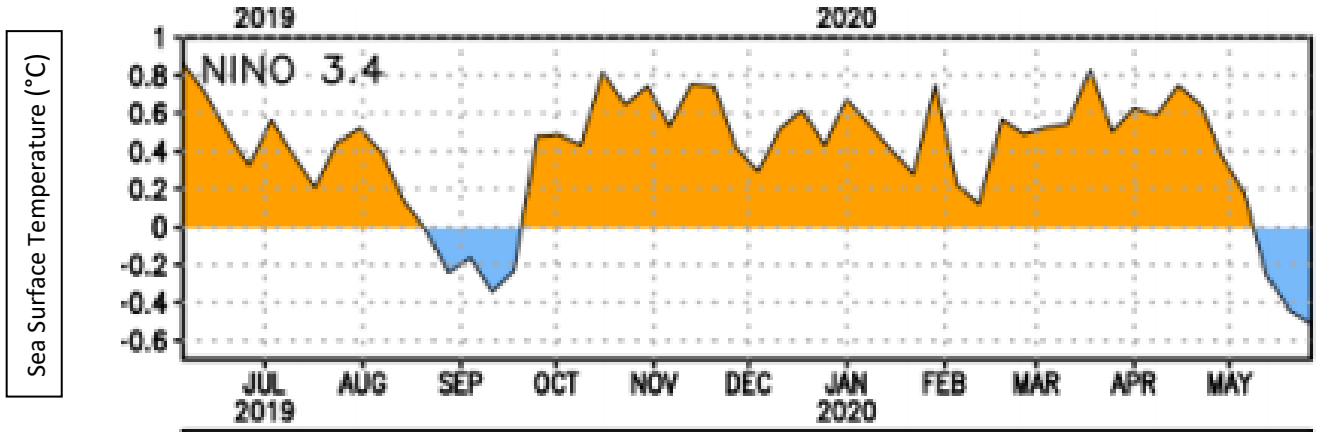




For June, the Southwest and Northern California look like hot spots. The Southwest is in the midst of a long-term drought while N Cali. Is experiencing above normal temperatures that are melting the snowpack very quickly. As we move into July, the above normal condition expands to include all of Nevada, most of the PNW, and much of the Great Basin/Intermountain region. By August, the summer monsoons will have alleviated the drying in the Southwest and the primary hot spots look to be the PNW and northern Rockies, with parts of N Cali. and Nevada. Although Hawaii looks to be above average all summer, don't expect to get a trip there.

ENSO CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK

The Past Year

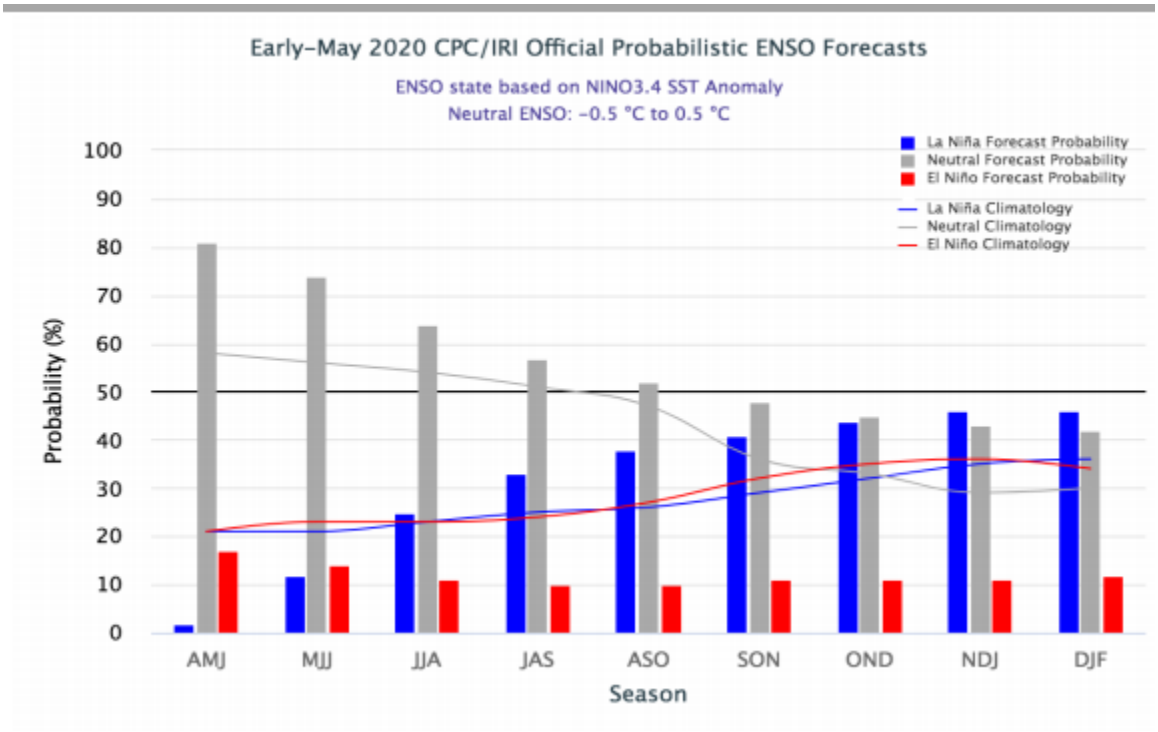


ENSO, or El Nino Southern Oscillation, is a fluctuation in the sea surface temperature (SST) in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Research has shown that even slight changes in the SST, particularly in area 3.4, can influence weather in North America. Generally, when SSTs are lower than normal, known as La Nina, NC has drier than normal conditions and can have more fire occurrence. However, La Nina also can lead to more tropical activity. El Nino, on the other hand, usually means wetter weather for NC, but less opportunity for tropical landfalls due to increased wind shear.

The above graph shows we have been in an El Nino leaning neutral pattern for several months. To declare an El Nino, the SST must be at least 0.5° C above normal for 3 consecutive months. It has come close to this, but not quite made it. In just the past month or so, the SST has made a sharp decline and is now below normal.

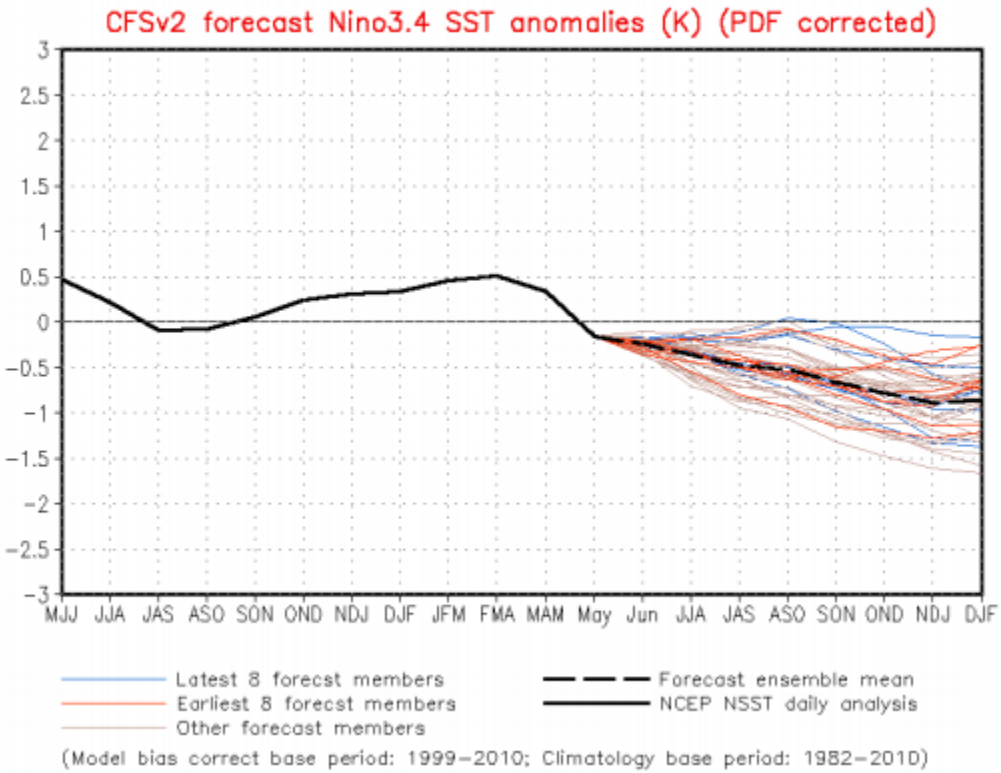
ENSO Predictions

CPC/IRI Probabilistic ENSO Outlook (As of May 14th, 2020)



This graph from the Climate Prediction Center International Research Institute shows the probability of the 3 phases of ENSO through this coming winter. It is showing a better than 50% chance of ENSO neutral through the summer, with chances for La Nina being higher in the later stages of winter. If this prediction comes to fruition, and La Nina does occur in late winter, it could mean increased significant fire potential for next spring.

NCEP CFS.v2 Forecast



The National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Climate Forecast System is predicting ENSO neutral through summer, with chances favoring La Nina after that.